GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1669
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2002
SUSPENSION OF EXPLORATION WORK IN BORDER AREAS
KAILASH MEGHWAL

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether works of exploration of oil and gas has been stopped in border areas due to deployment of army in Western area of Rajasthan and second unit of gas based power project in border area of Ramgarh has to be closed the day after it started operating due to lack of gas supply;

(b) whether the Government handed over Pinorawala block in Jaisalmer basin to Oil India to speed up the exploration of oil and gas;

(c) whether most of the gas exploration centres are situated within international region and therefor getting permission for going there is also very difficult thereby making the maintenance and repair work all the time more difficult;

(d) whether exploration work has not been started due to dispute under consideration of the Supreme Court over Mayajlar area regarding oil and gas exploration with officers of Muru National Sanctuary; and

(e) if so, the steps taken to streamline exploration work, production and maintenance of operating wells?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINIS
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR)

(a): The proposed workover and seismic acquisition work in the border areas of Western Rajasthan was deferred due to deployment of army in the area. The defence clearance for reactivation of the wells has since been received and the work will be resumed in next few months. In the mean time, however, the production operations had continued and gas supply to Ramgarh power plant (one unit) was maintained. As far as private companies / JVs are concerned, exploration activities have not been stopped due to deployment of army in Rajasthan.

(b): Government awarded block RJ-ONN-2000/1 (Pinorawala) to Oil India Ltd. under NELP-II bidding Round and work has started i this block.

(c): No such problems have been reported by any of the operators in this area.

(d)&(e): Exploration work in Mayajlar area was not taken up as this area falls under notified desert national park. ONGC has taken up the case to get permission for exploration. Monitoring of the progress of exploration and production work undertaken by national oil companies / joint venture companies and undertaking rectification measures is an ongoing exercise.